DEMOCRATIC
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# MULTI-LATERAL FARCE

**The NATO "Multi-Lateral Force" of freighters armed with nuclear weapons was turning into a dangerous multi-lateral farce as 1964 drew to a close.**

**West German militarists were making frantic efforts to have the MLF agreements with other NATO states completed and signed by the end of 1964, thus getting their fingers on the nuclear trigger. All other potential partners in this deadly Fred Karno navy, with the exception of the United States, were either postponing a decision in the hope that something might turn up, like Britain, or announcing that they wanted no part of it, like France. In West Germany itself, part of the press which had originally welcomed the MLF fleet was having second thoughts. Here is an extract from an article published by "Stern", West Germany's most widely read weekly:**

"Every layman can see that there is something wrong with the MLF project: and this is shown by the fact that the sea-going nations, like the British, the French, the Norwegians, the Dutch and the Italians, want nothing to do with it. The only people really interested in the scheme are the (West) Germans and the Americans.

"But there is no real agreement between these two. On the contrary they are playing a dishonest game with each other... To put it frankly, they are trying to swindle each other.

"The Germans want to get into the nuclear club; they want to get their finger on the trigger by hook or by crook. The Americans want to prevent this. Both sides regard the MLF as a means to achieve these contradictory ends.

"The question at issue is the question of command, or more precisely the way in which the participating governments should vote. (That in itself is comical enough: a fleet where fire orders have to be voted upon).

"The present proposal is that a majority vote should decide, and votes should be weighted according to the degree of financial participation. This means that sooner or later the MLF could really come under German control, since it is clear that the Germans will pay a lion's share of the costs.

"But if it came to this, it would be a Pyrrhic victory, not only because of the way in which the Russians might be expected to react, but because of the conclusions which the Americans would draw. An American political professor let the cat out of the bag in a lecture which he held this summer in Germany. Here are two key sentences from his lecture which deserve consideration: 'There is a serious fear in the USA that West Germany might use nuclear weapons in order to force re-unification. You may think it is nonsense, but I have documents to show that the USA is considering this possibility'. 'If you (the West Germans) have a small trigger for nuclear weapons in the MLF, and we have the big trigger, and if these two triggers are connected by the fact that American soldiers are performing a trip-wire function in Europe, then we have in reality handed over to you the big trigger to our entire potential. And that means that we have given you complete control over our lives and deaths. The result is that if we are going to give you small nuclear weapons, then we must cut clearly the connection between these small weapons and our huge arsenal. And the only way to do this is for us to quit Germany'."

## "Keep W. Germany Out" - Ulbricht

The time has come for the people of West Germany to put their foot down, and insist that the German Federal Republic keep out of the multi-lateral nuclear force, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, stated at a meeting in Cottbus on November 3rd.

"When Chancellor Erhard took over in West Germany, he claimed to support a policy of understanding and moderation", Walter Ulbricht stated.

"Since then he has called for the restoration of the German frontiers of 1937, and for the signature by December this year of the agreements on the multi-lateral nuclear armament of West Germany.

"Many NATO governments have rejected this claim, and this means that the Erhard Government has isolated itself; there is little prospect that it will be able to include West Germany in the nuclear club by December."

Turning to the possibility of reaching an understanding between the two German states, Walter Ulbricht pointed out that a useful agreement on frontier passes had recently been negotiated between the West Berlin authorities and the Government of the GDR; it should be possible for the West German Government and the GDR Government to negotiate on the normalisation of relations.

# ULBRICHT ON KHRUSHCHOV, CHINA

Questions on the resignation of Soviet leader Khrushchov and relations with the Chinese People's Republic were dealt with by Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, at a meeting in the "Black Pump" coal combine on November 3rd. He stated:

"While I was going round your works, I was asked a number of questions about Khrushchov. All of you have read the declaration of the Soviet Communist Party, and the declaration of the Politbureau of the Socialist Unity Party. Some people have asked: Why has not more been said? But it is not up to us to say more. The Central Committee of every Communist Party determines who should be First Secretary, and also determines what should be published about this.

"But we believe that we have given a sufficient explanation. We have declared that Khrushchov's services in making peace more secure, and, in the first period, in carrying out the decisions of the 20th, 21st and 22nd Congresses of the Soviet Communist Party are well known. Subsequently, however, he infringed upon, and even disregarded, the principles of collective leadership, and it is clear that this generally leads to mistakes and weaknesses.

"Details of the various mistakes, and how they should be corrected, is a matter for our Soviet comrades. I can only say one thing: we in the GDR did not carry out any of the proposals made by Comrade Khrushchov with regard to agriculture, and I am therefore not in a position to discuss this question ...

"There are naturally a number of other questions, connected with the struggle against dogmatism, something which is on the agenda in all our parties."

Turning to the question of relations with China, Walter Ulbricht stated:

"I have no intention of avoiding this question. When I hear what is being said in Bonn about the allegedly natural differences between the Soviet Union and China, and between the European People's Democracies and China, then I sometimes feel that Erhard and Adenauer can have nothing better to do than to hope that any differences will grow.

"The Chinese People's Republic will naturally take decisions in the political and economic field in accordance with its conditions, but I must say quite frankly that our knowledge is not great enough to say anything in detail about such questions. We have enough to do dealing with our own tasks in the GDR.

"Without intervening in the internal affairs of the Chinese People's Republic we are interested in the development of friendly relations between China, the Soviet Union, the GDR and the other People's Democracies.

"For this reason we have greeted the proposal of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party on summoning an International Conference, which should be preceded by a drafting commission composed in the same way as that of 1960. This proposal has been opposed by some Communist parties. We believe that it is necessary to confer on such differences and to reach agreement."

# Bonn Sacks Military Critic

The West German Government has sacked its "civil commissioner for the armed forces" who has recently been under right-wing fire because he was critical of many aspects of the new Bundeswehr.

It was announced on November 3rd that the civil commissioner, Ex-Admiral Hellmuth Heye, had submitted his resignation. He stated himself that he had been forced out because he could not tolerate the limits imposed upon his competence.

Admiral Heye first came under fire in June this year, when he declared publicly that the Bundeswehr was becoming a "state within the state ... trained in the spirit of yesterday". He was sharply criticised again in right-wing circles when he declared at the end of October that the Bundeswehr, with its 500,000 men, was far too large, and could comfortably be halved. This led to his forced resignation.

Admiral Heye served in the Kaiser's navy in World War One, and was promoted to Admiral by Hitler. In 1961 he was appointed civil commissioner for the armed forces, a post in which his main job was to investigate petty complaints and submit regular reports assuring parliament that everything was ship-shape in the West German army, navy and air-force.

But Admiral Heye, despite his professional military background, took his job seriously. On June 21st, finding no other outlet for his concern at the course being taken by the West German military leadership, he published an article in the West German weekly "Quick" in which he stated:

"Two-and-a-half years ago I was charged by Parliament with the task of seeing to it that individual rights were not enroached upon in the Bundeswehr ... When I took over the task I was convinced that I would be able to influence developments, but this turned out to be wishful thinking.

"If we do not change course completely, the Bundeswehr will turn into the sort of army that we did not want. There is an unmistakeable trend for the Bundeswehr to become a state in the state, a law to itself. Our army is equipped with the weapons of tomorrow, but trained in the spirit of yesterday; it is taking a dangerous path."

* * *

West German Defence Minister Kai-Uwe von Hassel told West German NCOs on October 30th that they should be "proud of their fathers" who served in Hitler's Wehrmacht. "They were the hundreds of thousands of decent sergeants and corporals who did their duty as the backbone of the Wehrmacht" said von Hassel, who was opening a new training school for non-commissioned officers.

# Communist Veteran Dies

Willi Bredel, metal worker, revolutionary and novelist, died in Berlin on October 27th at the age of 63. Bredel, who was President of the Academy of Arts of the GDR, took part as a young man in the revolutionary battles in Germany between 1918 and 1923. In the 1920s he worked as a journalist on Communist newspapers, and began to write fiction.

He was sent to concentration camp by the nazis as soon as they came to power. On his release in 1934 he escaped from Germany and wrote "The Testing Time", one of the very first of the concentration-camp books, which was published in many countries. During the Spanish Civil War he was political commissar of the Thaelmann Battalion of the International Brigade.

During the Second World War he did dangerous front-line work with the Soviet Army, and was decorated with the Stalingrad Medal.

# The Ones That Got Away

## *By Sefton Delmer (in the "Weekend Telegraph")*

Last week's meeting began on a social note. Coffee, cigarettes, Russian brandy and little chocolate-coated cakes were handed around. East Berlin's Communist State Attorney Herr Foth, who was the host, chatted with Dr Severin and Frau Billstein, officials from the West Berlin Public Prosecutor's Office. The Cold War and Ulbricht's Wall seemed to be forgotten.

And indeed for the time being they were. Here in this conference room of the Communist Director of Public Prosecutors in East Berlin's Scharnhorst Strasse something is going on week by week which only a short time ago would have been dismissed as unthinkable: West German and East German judicial officials of the divided city of Berlin, defying all the political taboos of non-cooperation, have joined forces to hunt down Nazi war criminals. Many of these men may at this moment be occupying posts of honour and trust.

At the moment the lawyers' main task is to search the vast legacy of files and records from Hitler's Reich which the East German authorities have salvaged from disused salt mines where the Nazis hid them at the end of the war.

What the Berlin lawyers are concentrating on are the grim files of orders, directives and action reports in which the officials of Himmler's organisation for legalised murder and genocide, the so-called Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Chief State Security Office) have left a minutely documented record of their activities.

Search for these is a race against time. Although inquiries were begun only last November, Berlin prosecutors have a bare seven months to complete their task before the hunted men become immune to prosecution.

"The evidence against them must be found and the indictments laid by May 7th, 1965, at the latest," said Dr Hans Günther, the West German attorney-general, resignedly. "Anything we try to put up after that date will be rejected. Unless we can get a judicial order authorising inquiry into a specific case before May 8th 1965 — and we have to put up a very convincing prima facie case to get an order of that kind — the criminals will be untouchable. However inhuman and monstrous their actions may have been they will have the protection of the West German Statute of Limitations. And under that statute no fresh prosecution for murder can be launched later than 20 years from the date of the crime."

Protests have been made in West Germany and abroad that war crimes like those of RSHA man are not ordinary crimes against German law but crimes against humanity. They should be excepted from the German Statute of Limitations, it has been argued, in fulfilment of the Allied declaration of October 30th 1943, that "war criminals shall be pursued to the ends of the earth", and that of February 11th 1945, that "all war criminals must be brought to judgment".

"Ours is a tough assignment," said Dr Günther, "and I do not know how much we shall be allowed to accomplish in the short time we have left."

He has assigned a third of his available staff, 11 state attorneys and their assistants, to the task.

The Statute of Limitations is not the only difficulty facing the team. Another is how to overcome the understandable antipathy to war crime prosecutions felt by many German judges and state attorneys who themselves served under Hitler. (And do not let anyone tell you that the recent clean-up of West Germany's judicial machinery has left none of them in office). There is a tendency on the part of examining judges to find legalistic pretexts for refusing a war crime prosecution.

"I have one case in my books now," said Dr Günther, "of a Nazi gaoler who ran a kind of miniature prison in Berlin. He used to make his women prisoners remain outside in the courtyard in the bitterest winter weather without any clothes. Several died. But can we expect to prove that he intended them to die? Can we even prove that they died as a result of the exposure ordered by him? If we cannot, or the judge decides it is a case of manslaughter at the most, then there is no case."

Manslaughter carries a maximum sentence of 13 years; under the Statute of Limitations the possibility of starting a prosecution for manslaughter expired four years ago.

A worse obstacle is the honeycomb of Nazi "old boys" in the police and intelligence services. The frequency with which highups of the present German police are picked up for prosecution as war criminals is indicative of the large numbers of RSHA and Gestapo men on the force. Four cases that spring to mind are:

Herr Heuser, the post-war police chief of the state of Rhineland Palatinate, given a 15-year sentence for his share in the murder of 35,000 Jews;

Herr Pradel, Chief Detective Inspector (Kriminalobermeister) in Hanover after the war, and during it one of the RSHA "experts" responsible for carrying out the travelling gas chamber executions of Jews;

Herr Fuchs, Detective Commissar in Lower Saxony, sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of thousands of Jews and Poles as a member of the "Einsatzkommando" (Special Service Commando) of the RSHA;

Herr Krause, until his arrest a year ago on a charge of having committed numerous illegal "executions" while in command of another RSHA commando in Russia, was for three years chief of the Criminal Investigation Department for Schleswig.

It is clear that members of the West German police force with a record of this kind can hardly be trusted to cooperate wholeheartedly with such officials as Dr Günther, or with Dr Erwin Schulle, director of the "Central Office for the Uncovering of Nazi Crime" in Ludwigsburg, whose detective work has led to the conviction of 120 war criminals by West German courts, or with Dr Fritz Bauer, the Frankfurt Attorney General who has been responsible for the roundup and trial of the Auschwitz extermination camp men and many others.

If only to protect themselves from denunciation by arrested ex-comrades these suspected men do their best to warn ex-comrades and help them to go underground.

"Have you had any leaks?" I asked Dr Günther.

"Yes," he replied. "There was one fellow a couple of weeks ago who flew off suddenly to Spain just as we had got ready to have him in for questioning."

The man in question lived well outside Dr Günther's jurisdiction and other authorities had been brought in to assist on his case.

Spain, however, would almost certainly be nothing more than a staging point, if Dr Günther's quarry is bent on finding a haven abroad until Germany is safe for him once more.

More likely destinations are Syria or Egypt where there is still a

welcome for Germans who can produce a good tally of murdered Jews. ODESSA, the secret escape organisation of the SS underground, which has a remarkable record for getting wanted SS and Gestapo men out of the country and even helping them to escape from prison, has placed many of its men with Nasser.

From the earliest days of the so-called "monastery route" just after the war, the favourite destination of escaping SS men has been South America. Roman Catholic priests and the Franciscan order in particular, prompted no doubt by a sense of Christian compassion and forgiveness, have passed men like Eichmann down a long line of religious "safe houses" out of Germany and Austria into Italy.

Until the fall of Peron the Argentine was the end of the line for most. But now the most fashionable refuge for SS men is Paraguay. Under General Alfredo Stroessner Paraguay has become a miniature SS state. Stroessner has appointed former SS officers to command his army, Gestapo men to his secret police and SS doctors to his medical service. He finds Nazis congenial, reliable and thoroughly devoted to his person, and he gives them his protection in return.

How does the German public take the prospect that the war crimes trials are coming to an end with the work of detection still unfinished? My general impression is that few Germans regret it and that most have greeted the 20-year limit with relief.

Some of them said to me: "Why should Germans be the only war criminals to be prosecuted? Why not the British, American and Russian as well?" But the most general view was that the men being hunted down for trial and sentencing were only the unfortunate small fry.

There is quite a lot of sense in this contention. Most of the chief figures sentenced by Allied military courts immediately after the war, except for the few executed, have been released by the Americans and ourselves after serving only a token sentence. Many of these men are now occupying well-paid jobs and no one can touch them because you cannot punish a man twice for the same crime.

All the same, I hope that Dr Günther and his colleagues round up the RSHA men before they are saved by the bell.

*(Abridged from "Weekend Telegraph", London, October 16th 1964)*

# NAZIS IN THE NEWS

The man in charge of the West German office "For the Protection of Youth from Undesirable Publications" is Robert Schilling, former Nazi Party member, who served throughout the Hitler era as public prosecutor in a nazi court. West German observers pointed out that part of his task consists of censoring pornographic publications, of which he may be a fair judge; his other task is to survey neo-nazi and militarist literature and see whether it is suitable for sale to minors.

* * *

Two leading nazi war criminals, sentenced to death but later pardoned, are now suing the West German state for their full pensions.

SS General Karl Albrecht Oberg was top policeman in Galicia, where some of the very worse massacres of the war took place, and later nazi police chief in occupied France. He was sentenced to death by a French court in 1954; the sentence was later commuted and he was released, and he now lives in Flensburg, West Germany. Oberg's legal action for his pension and special compensation for "imprisonment abroad" has been supported officially by Kai-Uwe von Hassel, West German Defence Minister.

The other man suing is SS Colonel Ernst Bieberstein, who worked in Himmler's headquarters as expert on religious questions before he was appointed to head Special Extermination Squad 6 (Einsatzkommando VI) on the eastern front. He was sentenced to death by a US military tribunal after the war, but released in 1954. During his interrogation by the Americans Bieberstein, a former Protestant pastor, stated: "During my period as chief of Einsatzkommando VI we killed between 2000 and 3000 people in our area. I personally supervised an execution in Rostov/Don in which a gas-van was used." (Doc. NO-4997, June 29th 1947)

He is now taking court action to receive full pension since he was not reinstated after his release in the West German civil service.

## Protecting Franco

The public prosecutor in the West German city of Cologne has opened proceedings against the local branch of the socialist youth organisation "The Falcons" on charges of "insulting the head of a friendly state". The youth organisation had sent out invitations to a memorial meeting for Spanish Republicans murdered by Franco. The invitations were decorated with a picture of Franco superimposed on cemetery crosses.

## War Crimes Trials Unpopular

About 70% of the West German population think that nazi criminals should no longer be prosecuted, according to a poll conducted by the West German Wickert Institute. 63% of all men and 76% of all women queried said that such prosecutions should be stopped.


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# Higher Education in the GDR

**In the German Democratic Republic there are 68 students at universities and colleges per 10,000 of the population; in West Germany the figure is 37 per 10,000.**

**Over 50 % of all university students in the GDR come from working class families. In West Germany the figure is only 5 %**

**The GDR has, in proportion to population, three times as many technical students as West Germany, nine times as many students of agriculture, more than twice as many medical students, and seven times as many students training to be teachers.**

**The GDR spends, per student, nearly three times as much as West Germany.**

# A Visit to East Germany

## By Valerie Bannister

We were woken at 6 a. m. by the noise of bull-dozers, cranes and pneumatic drills in the centre of Karl Marx Stadt. Work starts early in the German Democratic Republic, as they have a lot of rebuilding to do in a country formed from a war-shattered remnant.

Travelling from Berlin to Görlitz, Dresden, Leipzig and back for a fortnight, I saw everywhere the legacy of war — country cottages scarred with gun-fire, patched-up apartment houses, only habitable in parts — but far more noticeable was the vast programme of re-building and planning of community services in towns and villages, large and small.

In Karl Marx Stadt, an industrial town with a population the size of the new Borough of Greenwich, the entire town centre, an area of 1 × 1½ miles, is being rebuilt, except for a section of the old town walls and watchtower which will stand in the public gardens in the very centre.

But this is not a development primarily of shops and offices. The overall plan includes not only modern houses with wide through-roads and pedestrian areas for safe shopping and rear-entrance underground service roads, but spacious flats with gardens, open spaces and indoor and outdoor playgrounds.

Integrated with this are health centres, schools, nurseries, a cinema, theatre, community centres, sports centre, museum, hotels, church, municipal offices and many gardens.

In the provinces a modern flat with entrance hall, kitchen, bathroom, two large and one smaller room costs about £5 a month, including hot water and central heating; in Berlin this would be nearer £8 a month. The highest permissible rent is 10% of the income of the main wage earner, but the average is nearer 5%.

Housing is provided both by the local authorities and by cooperative groups, where people decide together on the homes they want and then reduce the cost still further by helping to build them. In cooperative schemes it is usual for residents to elect a committee and a community leader each year — a cross between caretaker and social worker, whose job it is to keep an eye on the welfare of everyone living there, particularly the old and lonely.

There are no rates to pay as local authorities are financed through

direct taxation of shops and industry, with national equalisation adjustments where needed.

An item by item comparison of the standard of living between Britain and the GDR is not really possible. East German wages average £11 a week, but a typical family situation is that of the Berlin tram conductress with whom we spent an interesting hour travelling through the city.

She earned about £45 a month and her husband, a driver, somewhat more; their rent for a modern flat, plus heating was just over £4 a month.

Most women work, and besides equal pay, everything is done to make it easy for them to cope with their families as well. Special time-off arrangements for mothers of babies are usual in large factories and there are nurseries for children up to the age of three, kindergartens for the three to six year-olds and after-school clubs. Shops, a laundry and health-care facilities are found in the larger factories or within the residential areas.

Consumer goods vary considerably in price. Basic foods, furniture, nursery and household equipment cost much the same as our own, but clothes are somewhat dearer and "luxuries" like TV sets are nearly three times as expensive. Public transport is a real public service, with a single fare of less than 4d. for any journey within a town.

Social security is very real, with full or almost full pay for the first three months of sickness and at least two-thirds of pay however long it continues, culminating, if necessary, in a permanent disability pension.

Holidays are available to all workers and their families through the trade unions at purely nominal costs.

In Dresden we saw a different kind of re-building — complete reconstruction of the beautiful and historic buildings destroyed or damaged during the fire-raids of 1945. Churches, palaces and art galleries are now restored to their former splendour and the many priceless art treasures have been returned to their rightful place to be seen by thousands of people daily.

Despite their difficulties in building a new society — people will tell you readily about the hard times and privations they have suffered in the past, and about the current shortcomings — East Germans have pride and confidence in their achievements and a very genuine wish for friendship and closer understanding with other nations.

*(Abridged from an article in the "Kentish Independent", October 16th 1964)*

# Combatting Diabetes in the GDR

## By Max Reich

The pioneering work of Dr Volker Schliak, a GDR medical expert, has shown that, particularly in countries with a high living standard, ignorance about diabetes disables and kills an unnecessarily large number of people.

A programme for the early detection and treatment of diabetes has been worked out in the German Democratic Republic. It is now being carried out, with constant improvements, so that the GDR is now by far the most advanced country in the world in the care of sufferers from this disease.

But the fact that Dr Schliak is a citizen of the GDR has prevented some countries from taking full advantage of his work.

The role of diabetes should not be under-estimated. Dr Schliak's studies reveal that next to cancer and tuberculosis it is Enemy No. 3 of a nation's health. The trouble is that many diabetics do not even know they have the disease, and this is the great danger, for undetected diabetes causes damage to the circulatory system and other organs.

Diabetes is often detected when a patient sees a doctor for some complaint which has developed as a result of a diabetic condition. But at that point it is often too late to hold up the disease.

In West Germany 70 per cent of diabetics die from damage to their blood vessels. The incidence of kidney disease in diabetics is seventeen times higher, of heart attacks five time higher than in non-diabetics. Insufficiently controlled diabetes can lead to deterioration in sight or even blindness, to gangrene and stroke, and it can also cause miscarriages. Detection of diabetes is therefore a major problem.

As a young doctor; Schliak made the observation in 1950 that of about 2,000 patients he had examined 1.5 per cent were diabetics. This figure appeared unusually high, because the incidence of diabetes in the developed countries was generally assumed to be between 0.02 and 0.03 per cent of the population. To check his findings a test was carried out on a representative section of people in the province of Mecklenburg. The result was: 1.5 per cent of those examined had diabetes. Only later did Dr Schliak learn that similar investigations had been carried out in the USA, where Professor Joslin, famous US diabetes specialist, predicted that if all diabetes cases were known, 1.5 per cent of the population would be found to suffer from the disease.

In 1951 Dr Schliak examined 98.8 per cent of the population over 6 years of age in a small East German town of 5,028 inhabitants — and found that 1.5 per cent of them were suffering from diabetes. There could be no doubt of the fact that many people were victims of an insidious affliction that would cripple and kill them if it remained undetected. Dr Schliak then developed a sensitive test which was at the same time easy to carry out on large numbers of people. He urged that this simple test be applied to the population of whole provinces, so that the disease could be detected early enough for proper treatment, before it had a chance to damage vital organs.

This solution seems simple, but would it have been feasible if Dr Schliak had not lived in a country where medicine is socialised? It is a fact that mass screening such as is being effectively carried out in the GDR is not done on this scale anywhere else in the world. Over two million people have already been screened and many hidden cases of diabetes have come to light. Where the health of the nation is concerned, socialised medicine proves to be not only more effective but also cheaper than private medicine. This screening costs about 9d. per person in the GDR. The cost of treating an advanced case of diabetes is of course far higher.

The West German magazine "Spiegel", in an article on diabetes in West Germany on June 10th 1964, stated: "There is no money available for early detection of diabetes."

But detection is only the first step. Dr Schliak and others have establish-

ed that the traditional methods of treatment relied upon by the general practitioner and even the internal specialist are inadequate and unsatisfactory. Most doctors lack the special knowledge and training necessary to be of real help to the patient. Only a centrally coordinated organisation which pools all facts and makes the best methods available through a specially trained staff can help effectively. In recognition of this fact a system of care and treatment of diabetic patients has been set up in the GDR the like of which cannot be found in any other country.

As a result of the efforts of Dr Schliak and his colleagues, detection drives and diabetic surveys were instituted in a number of European countries, and even in Asia (Japan and Israel) and Latin America. An international organisation was set up to unify methods and coordinate research. Dr Schliak's work has set in motion a world drive to help millions of sufferers. This is appreciated by scientists in many countries with whom Dr Schliak has good contacts; but to the general public he remains quite unknown, because he is a GDR citizen.

During the congress of the International Diabetic Association in Geneva in July 1961 a US paper interviewed Dr Schliak for an article which was to have been headed "Dr Schliak's Work Unites East and West". The article never appeared. The "Spiegel" article on June 10th mentioned neither Dr Schliak's name nor the outstanding facilities for the treatment of diabetes in the GDR. All its references were to work done in other countries, most of which was directly initiated by Dr Schliak.

Dr Schliak was invited to attend the conference on diabetes in Toronto, Canada, from July 20th to 24th this year. His GDR passport was not recognised by Canada, under a NATO ruling, and he was unable to attend. He showed me the comprehensive report he had intended to submit on the work done by himself and in many other countries, and told me of a number of recommendations he would have submitted at the conference.

He may have another chance to have his recommendations — the result of years of experience, investigation and research — debated before an international forum and accepted in the interest of diabetics all over the world, for the World Health Organisation is to hold a symposium on diabetes at its session in Prague. But the GDR has as yet not been admitted to the World Health Organisation.

# Brecht on Shakespeare

## By Kenneth Tynan (in "The Observer")

"Naturally", said Brecht in a note on his version of "Coriolanus," "we shall have to change the attitude of the plebs." That isn't all he changed, as I discovered in East Berlin a week ago, when the long-promised opening of **Coriolanus** — the Berliner Ensemble's first sortie into Shakespeare — at last took place.

First, the setting: a towering archway of Roman masonry that revolves to become the wooden stockade of Corioli. No togaed splendour in any of the costumes: this is tribal, barbaric Italy, five centuries ere the mightiest Julius fell. The plebs foregather, perhaps 20 in number, by no means a mob: for each of them a name has been invented. They are simultaneously one and many: this delicate balance is the sort of achievement that justifies nine months' rehearsal. Their protest against the patricians takes the form of a sit-down strike. The entrance of Coriolanus (a stubby, crew-cut figure played by Ekkehard Schall, the Hitler of "Arturo Ui") brings them shuffling to their feet. Their reaction to his contempt, here and throughout, is not rage but passive resistance, a steady expressionless stare: they are used to it.

Between them and Coriolanus a necessary battle will soon be fought. First comes the unnecessary battle for Corioli, staged by the Ensemble at a pitch of audacity that is breathtaking even for them ...

First the gates are stormed, with attack by siege-ladders, counter-attack by vast nets of heavy rope, renewed attack by shield-plated phalanx. Next: battle in the open, with waves of soldiers clashing in the stylised manner of Chinese opera, knees akimbo and swords maniacally brandished. As they part, the mortally wounded slowly spin and fall. Finally: the generals meet in single combat, covered in blood yet grinning as they face each other, like two young Samurai delighting in their expertise.

Clearly we are not to look at these battles through modern eyes. The immorality of war is not the play's subject; nor is Coriolanus presented as a war criminal. Though given to fits of temper, he is not personally unlikeable. The hall-mark of Brechtian theatre is that it judges men by their actions, not by their personalities. The animus of the production is not against Coriolanus himself but the social role in which he is cast.

The people are slow to rise against him. Appearing in the Forum to solicit their votes for the consulship, he eventually wins them over by singing a song of battle; we tend to forget that these are the same men he has just led at Corioli. The people's tribunes (played as sensible pragmatists, not heroic demagogues) persuade the plebs of their error; and Coriolanus is banished not by a roused and hysterical rabble but by solemn judicial process.

The production thus far is a masterpiece: politics and theatre exquisitely wedded. In the later acts Shakespeare lets Brecht down by stressing personal relationships (e. g., Coriolanus and Volumnia) in a way that goes against the Brechtian grain. Not that the production ignores the "mother's boy" aspect of Coriolanus: Volumnia dresses him before the battle of Corioli (in lines lifted from "Antony and Cleopatra"), giving him a sword of robustly Freudian significance; and "Boy!" — the taunt flung at him by Aufidius — is actually translated as "Muttersöhnchen." But the climactic scene with his mother is radically changed. Since private emotions cannot be permitted to alter the course of history, he remains unmoved by her pleas until — in a speech added by Brecht — she explains that the people of Rome, spurred on by their tribunes, have armed themselves against him. It is this news, and not filial duty, that halts him.

Thus Brecht makes his point: that the play's theme is the downfall of "the individual who blackmails society with his indispensability." But Shakespeare's play, no matter how you revamp it (and the liberties taken are many: not only "Antony and Cleopatra" but "Julius Caesar" and even the porter's scene from "Macbeth" are raided), is the work of a man who genuinely believed that heroes were indispensable. Brecht's anti-hero is historically convincing; but after the banishment, stripped as he is of emotional complexities, he becomes theatrically uninteresting, if not redundant. We already know about him all that we need to know.

Yet so much of a piece is this fantastic production that the falling-off in the second half is logically inseparable from the magnificence of the first. What we gain from the total experience immeasurably outweighs what we miss. Brecht's "Coriolanus" has left an indelible mark on Shakespeare's.

*(from "The Observer", London, October 4th)*

# BERLIN NOTEBOOK

**By John Peet**

There was a charming "Situations Wanted" advertisement in the European edition of the "New York Times" on October 13th: "German Army General retiring 1965 is looking for part-time position with American company in Europe. Long experience in international affairs. Experience in Public Relations. Fluent French, English and German".

A detailed account of his experience in international affairs would be enlightening. What was that song that Wehrmacht soldiers used to sing? "From Finisterre to the Black Sea, we are marching". And I cannot possibly be libelling this unnamed general; there is not a single one in the West German army who was not at least a colonel under Hitler.

*

Readers in many western countries will have heard often in the past about the "heroic" tunnellers who dig holes under the frontiers of the German Democratic Republic in Berlin, and occasionally kill a GDR frontier guard in the process.

Thanks to the West German magazine "Zeitung" of October 15th, we now know that the latest such operation, which led to the murder of a GDR official, was a purely commercial undertaking. The men who drove the tunnel from West Berlin under the frontier into East Berlin hoped to make the nice round sum of one million marks — roughly £ 90,000. Here are a few extracts from this revealing article:

"The boss of the tunnellers, Fuchs, began to build a new tunnel in April 1964. It cost a lot of money, about 40,000 marks. 30,000 marks were provided by members of the Christian Democratic Union. By July the money had run out, and they hoped to raise the remaining 10,000 marks by selling exclusive rights to the press.

"The tunnellers were getting anxious. They expected to take in one million marks, between 6000 and 8000 for each refugee . . .

"On October 5th the newspapers reported that the biggest escape had taken place. 57 East Berliners had fled, and an East Berlin frontier policeman had been shot by the tunnellers.

"The pictures and the story were being sold to the highest bidder. The representatives of 'Daily Express', 'Daily Mirror' and 'The Sun' were putting up the prices in £50 jumps. 'The Sun' got the rights for £ 1400.

"Fuchs flew to Paris with the material. 'Paris Match' paid 8000 marks; 'Life' paid 16,000 marks. A cameraman had made a film which was expected to bring another 100,000 marks.

"And all this was in addition to the 342,000 marks which tunnel boss Fuchs had already taken in, in the biggest business deal of his life. . . . Tunnellers had told reporters: 'Anyone who does not pay to go through the tunnel will be chased away at the point of a pistol'."

*

At its October meeting the International Athletics Association finally decided to accept the German Democratic Republic as a full member. This means that in future GDR athletes will be able to compete in their own teams and under their own flag in international athletic events. The decision was a belated one; practically all the other international sport bodies — 46 of them to be precise, though I can't imagine how there came to be so many different varieties of sport — have long ago accepted the facts of life in this respect.

But there was one slightly odd feature in this sensible decision: West Germany will compete under the title "Germany", and the German Democratic Republic under the name "East Germany". If anyone can explain this anti-mathematical logic, by which the whole does not contain the parts, I shall be grateful.

While we are on the subject of sports, let's just have a quick look at the Olympic Games, though you are probably thoroughly sick of the subject. The International Olympic Committee still insists that Germany is one country and has to be represented by one team, so the athletes from the two German states were, at least nominally, all in one bunch. In fact, of course, they were just as separate as, let us say, the Canadian and Australian teams. This had some curious results in the West German reporting of the events: when GDR athletes won gold medals they appeared in big headlines as "Another Gold for Germany", but when they lost they suddenly became sportsmen from the "Soviet Zone".

The GDR newspapers, more realistically, treated the nominally united team as the two separate teams that it really was, scoring the points separately for the GDR and West Germany. The final results for GDR sport were not at all bad: it ranged eleventh in the world list of medal winners, immediately below Britain. West Germany, with three times the population, ranged eighth.

*

I have just been studying some of the fine print in the latest West German budget, and very interesting reading it makes. There is the odd figure of 40 million marks for "compensation for former POWs" for instance. Since the last normal German POWs returned home some fourteen years ago, this money would appear to be earmarked for the handful of war criminals who still turn up in West Germany from Holland, France, and other countries after completing their sentences. A further 10 million marks are set aside for the support of "prisoners in foreign detention". Since the number of nazi criminals still actually serving sentences abroad is very small indeed, this fine round sum must be enough to provide very substantial Christmas parcels.

But these two sums fade into insignificance in comparison with the 1,394 million marks which turn up in the social services section of the budget under the clumsy title of "payments to excluded officials of the public services". If you check back through West German laws and regulations you find that these "excluded officials" are the people generally tactfully known as "131ers" after paragraph 131 of the West German Constitution, which deals with the pension rights of "officials who left the public service other than for service reasons". This does not, admittedly, make much sense, so I had better explain. The 131ers so handsomely provided for in the 1965 budget are simply and plainly the nazi civil servants who were either so bloody-handed or so stupid that they could not be re-installed in office when the West German state was founded. Instead they get whacking great pensions.

*

Visiting London a couple of weeks ago with my five-year-old son, we passed a crowd in Downing Street, where Harold Wilson was busy forming his cabinet. My son wanted to know what it was all about, so I did my best to explain in simple terms. He thought a bit, and then said: "Ah, that's where the English Walter Ulbricht lives".

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